

THE STATE LEGISLATURE.

Disgraceful Conduct of Thos. C. Fields.

MOB LAW FROM THE GALLERIES.

Attempt to Usurp the Chair of the House.

The Speakership Still Undecided.

ASSEMBLY, Jan. 24, 1863.

Mr. THOS. C. FIELDS of New-York, on a question of privilege, desired to bring to the notice of the House the gross libel and misrepresentation contained in an article in the *New York Evening Post* of yesterday, designating him as the leader of imported ruffians and bullies.

He denied the statement, and held that, although the Democrats had resolved to resist now and always an organization based upon fraud and corruption, and bargain and sale, and everything that was dishonorable, yet they were and always had been, and always would be, in favor of maintaining law and order.

The 9th ballot for Speaker was then taken, with the following result:

Trimmer	60
Callcott	50
Dewey	50

The 2d ballot was then taken. When Mr. Broad's name was called, he voted for Mr. Callcott, thus insuring him one majority as the vote then stood.

A tremendous excitement followed this vote.

When Mr. Fields's name was called he rose to explain his vote.

Immediately several Republican members rose and called Mr. Fields to order, on the ground that he was not in order to "explain a vote" till the call was finished.

Mr. FIELDS argued that during the whole session explanations of votes had been entertained at the time the name of a member was called. He refused to give way, and begged leave to state that he had been informed that a plan had been laid down by David Dudley Field in the Republican caucus that the Acting Clerk of this Assembly, after receiving notice of any Democratic member who might rise in order.

Mr. DAVIS endeavored to interrupt Mr. Fields's remarks, on a point of order, amid much confusion and excitement.

Mr. FIELDS refused to give way.

The confusion and excitement now became intense, the galleries and lobby joining in it.

Mr. MOUTON (Dem.) rose, and amid the noise of the outsiders, moved that a Committee wait on Governor Seymour.

At this time all the members of the Assembly were upon their feet.

The CLERK put Mr. Mouton's motion to a vote, and declared it carried.

Members David Sherwood and Brand were appointed as the Committee to wait on Governor Seymour.

Mr. MURPHY declared that the Clerk was only in the desk by the sufferance of the members of the Assembly, and that if he should attempt to violate the rules, he should move to have the Clerk removed, and that the Acting Clerk should be appointed who would observe the rules.

Mr. FIELDS continued speaking amid repeated interruptions.

Much confusion and turmoil also existed in the galleries.

In the course of his remarks, Mr. Fields read a letter from John Livingston of New-York to Fernando Wood, begging that he (Wood) would go for Callcott for Speaker, and stating that Callcott had several times called on the Hon. D. O. Brien, a member of the present Assembly, to obtain an introduction to Fernando Wood, and that Callcott said that Mr. Wood would not be so easily won to go for Callcott, but that Callcott would do all he could to aid Mr. Wood.

After frequent interruptions of Mr. Fields in his remarks, and exciting demonstrations from outsiders, Judge DEAN rose to a question of privilege, and begged that the galleries might be compelled to observe order. If they would not be so, he would move for a Committee to request the Governor to deprive a sufficient number of men to preserve order here.

Quiet then being restored,

Mr. FIELDS continued his remarks, saying that every effort should be made by him to prevent consumption of this time in vain. It should not be carried through unless it was done on the Sabbath.

In the course of his remarks, while declaring Mr. Callcott corrupt and unfit to occupy the Speaker's chair, he charged that in 1850, when Mr. Callcott was a member of the Judiciary Committee, there was a bill before that Committee in the defeat of which a gentleman of this city was largely interested, on account of his position as landlord of the anti-slave laws.

The bill was reported against by Mr. Callcott, as "unfit to pass," and Mr. Callcott expressed to the gentleman to whom he (Fields) referred, the opinion, "that the bill was most unjust and improper."

The following day he sent the following letter to the gentleman:

GENTLEMAN: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th inst., and in reply to inform you that the bill in question has been passed by the Legislature.

DEAR SIR: Will you do me the favor to send me your check for \$100 for a few days. An anticipated bill has been made to me to be paid to me, and I have no money to pay it. Please send me the amount per check, and much oblige, yours truly,

Mr. FIELDS continued his remarks, and the person to whom this letter was sent happened to be out of town at the time it was delivered. Three days afterwards, this Callcott sent to the same gentleman, requesting a loan of \$150. The gentleman, seeing the object of Callcott, refused him the loan. This would have been nothing had not Callcott, immediately after the refusal, gone into the House and voted in favor of the passage of the bill he had before reported against as "unfit to pass." He (Fields) held this as conclusive evidence of corruption and dishonesty on the part of Callcott, and he (Fields) would move for a Committee of Investigation.

Mr. Callcott was not in the House.

Mr. FIELDS continued his remarks, and at this hour (1 o'clock) is still speaking.

ATLANTY, Saturday, Jan. 25-14 p.m.

During Mr. Fields's remarks, five minutes ago, the Clerk was absent from his seat and from the Chamber.

A motion was made to place Mr. Saxton Smith in the chair temporarily.

Mr. Smith, in the present, a motion was made that Judge Dean should take the chair during the absence of the Clerk.

Great confusion now ensued, when a motion was made by several Democratic members that Mr. Murphy should take the chair, and the motion was declared carried by its movers.

Mr. MURPHY immediately took the chair.

A voice of fierce exclamation came from the galleries, and the Democratic members rushed to the front of the desk, the former shouting "Come down, you scoundrel," and the others crying out, "Stand up for your rights," while the friends of Mr. Murphy rallied to his side.

Mr. POST placed one hand in his breast pocket, in a threatening attitude, as though about to draw a revolver, while he held a stick in the other hand.

Several other members also placed their hands in their pockets, apparently about to draw their weapons.

After the most intense excitement, when a scene of bloodshed seemed on the point of being inaugurated, the Clerk returned to his seat, and the shouting and exclamations, Mr. Murphy gave way to the Clerk, who again took his seat.

When order was restored,

Mr. HUTCHINGS held that it was perfectly in order during the temporary absence of the Clerk to appoint a temporary presiding officer. This body had been left without a head and consequently was not in condition to transact business. There was no use for the terrible excitement of the Republican members. This was only a fourth of the session. A clerk of a former Assembly presided, and was only in the chair by sufferance and by law.

Mr. DEAN called attention to a case which had occurred in Congress when a temporary presiding officer was chosen after the clerk had been for some time absent.

Mr. SHERWOOD said that was an instance when the Clerk had refused to call the roll.

The CLERK of the Assembly here made an ex-

planation that he had been temporarily absent, and had requested his Deputy to act during his absence. Mr. FIELDS—This House knows no deputy. No deputy had a right to be there.

Mr. FIELDS continued his speech, during which he was repeatedly called to order.

Mr. DAVIS at length appealed to the gentleman from New-York (Fields) not to outrage laws, but he himself voted to adopt and compel the House to declare him in contempt, and arraign him at the bar. He made a speech of conciliatory character, stating that while the crowd in the lobby, called together by the exciting question, had certainly acted in a disorderly manner, he hoped returning reason would dictate to all members to remember their duty to observe the rules they themselves had adopted.

The scene recently enacted he himself had joined in the excitement, finding it contagious. He now expressed the hope that good feeling would be again restored. In regard to the gentleman (Callcott), the candidate of the Republican party for Speaker, it was believed by them that he was not corrupt and bankrupt in character as described. It was a libel on the constituency of the gentleman (Callcott), on Kings County, as well as on the Democratic party, to believe that he was such an ulcer described. Surely his constituency could not have elected him if they believed him corrupt.

Mr. MURPHY, rising to a question of privilege, said: A few moments ago, when no Clerk was present, and the Assembly was without any presiding officer, he (Murphy) made a motion to elect Mr. Saxton Smith as temporary Chairman.

Mr. MURPHY then made a motion, but to insure the preservation of order by having some one order the clerk authorized to preserve it.

It had been charged in the Republican newspapers that he (Murphy) had said that if Callcott was elected Speaker, he could never take his seat. He (Murphy) had never held any such threat of violence, and he denied ever having used such language.

Mr. SHAW—Did the gentleman say that "if Callcott was elected, he should never take his seat alive?"

Mr. MURPHY—Never! The statement is false. He repeated, however, that he should resist by every lawful means what he considered an outrage and an injury to the State.

Mr. REDDINGTON inquired if before Mr. Murphy took the chair, Mr. Fields had not entered from the clock room and winked at him to do so?

Mr. MURPHY and Mr. FIELDS denied that there was the slightest foundation for Mr. Reddington's statement.

ALBANY, Saturday, Jan. 24, 3 p.m.

There has been no change. Mr. MURPHY of Erie is speaking on a question of privilege.

At 3 p.m. Mr. FIELDS of New-York has just taken the floor.

QUARTER-PAST 3 P.M.

Mr. Fields of New-York has just taken the floor. Mr. SHERMAN said that he had himself made the motion without consultation with any person.

Mr. FREAN of Richmond County desired to be understood that he was not in order to vote for Mr. MOUTON (Dem.) in the chair, for he regarded it as no more than a joke. The Clerk had sometimes delayed the announcement of votes during the temporary absence of members, and he (Mr. Frean) thought that as a matter of courtesy no notice should have been taken of the temporary absence of the Clerk from the chair.

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